



AUSTIN360 | D1

SPRING IS BLOSSOMING IN CENTRAL TEXAS

Check out our guide for a dozen great spots near Austin for seeing wildflowers



BUSINESS | E1

LIVING HIGH IN DOWNTOWN AUSTIN'S SKY

Boom in construction of apartment towers continues to change the city's skyline

Austin American-Statesman

Sunday, March 15, 2020

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CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

HUNKERING DOWN

Trump expands travel ban to include United Kingdom, **A4**

Worship services go online amid coronavirus outbreak, **B1**

UIL halt rocks high school teams and athletes, **C1**



From left, Arlo Gilbert, his wife, Alex Gilbert, and his two daughters Sari, 12, and Daylyn, 17, are staying in their home as the coronavirus reaches Austin. They have enough food and supplies to last three weeks. [BRONTE WITTPENN/AMERICAN-STATESMAN PHOTOS]

As virus arrives, some stay home

Central Texans weigh risks of a social life as an invisible threat looms

By Asher Price, Madlin Mekelburg and Lara Korte
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By the time Austin officials reported the first cases of COVID-19 in Central Texas on Friday, the Gilberts were ready.

They had stocked the pantry in their Central Austin home with enough food and supplies to last them three weeks, made arrangements to work remotely and communicated with friends and family members about their intention to practice social isolation if the virus came to Austin.

Sari, 12, and Daylyn, 17, came up with a list of movies and books to enjoy while stuck at home. Alex Gilbert visited with her doctor about her ongoing pregnancy.

The last thing left on their list of to-dos? Say "I do."

See ISOLATION, A5



Texas State University student Frank Roe, 22, is under self-imposed quarantine in his San Marcos apartment since he returned early from what was supposed to be a semester abroad in South Korea.

More inside

- Roy votes against coronavirus relief bill, **A4**
- Statesman Cap10K canceled amid virus crackdown, **A9**
- Some Austin eateries offer paid sick leave, **D1**

Infection control problems plague nursing homes

Amid coronavirus fears, infection control violations among most persistent for nursing homes locally, nationwide

By Julie Chang
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More than 80% of nursing homes in Texas were cited in the last three years by the federal government for not following proper protocol to prevent infections, raising concerns about the safety of such facilities amid the new coronavirus outbreak.

Government watchdogs cited 74% of the 57 nursing homes in Travis, Williamson, Hays and Bastrop counties for violations between 2017 and 2019, according to latest available federal data collected by the USA TODAY Network, of which the American-Statesman is a member.

See INFECTION, A6

Austin bans events with 250 people or more

Hays, Bell counties report new presumptive cases; schools take steps to prepare for possible closures

By Katie Hall, Philip Jankowski and Ariana Garcia
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The city of Austin late Saturday issued an order prohibiting events and other community gatherings of more than 250 people.

Mayor Steve Adler made the order effective at 2 a.m. It will remain in place until May 1, unless it's revoked earlier.

The measure is the latest step the city of Austin has taken in its efforts to contain the spread of the new coronavirus and represents an escalation to the city's approach to large gatherings. Just a day before, Austin public health officials said they strongly recommended venues to cancel events with 250 people or more but warned that stronger measures were under consideration.

Those measures came Saturday. Adler's order says the city now recommends canceling, postponing or not attending events with more than 125 people.

People who are at the highest risk from the disease, such as elderly people and people with pre-existing conditions, are urged not to attend or avoid gatherings with 10 people or more.

Austin and Travis County first banned events with 2,500 people or more, effectively canceling this year's South by Southwest Festival, when they issued a local state of disaster declaration on March 6.

Austin was among several area government agencies, school districts and businesses scrambling Saturday to stay ahead of the fast-spreading virus.

See VIRUS, A9

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TODAY
Few showers
78° / 64°

MONDAY
Iso. storms
79° / 66°

TUESDAY
Few storms
81° / 66°



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Saturday, April 25
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Sunday, May 3
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